

**MINUTES
MANSFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING**

MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2002

Present: Nora Stevens, Phil Fichandler, Carol Philip, Carol McMillan, Tim Quinn, Phil Secker, Mary Thatcher

Staff: Jean Ann Kenny, Marilyn Gerling

- I. Call to Order:** Nora Stevens opened the meeting at 2:35 PM.
- II. Appointment of Recording Secretary:** Marilyn Gerling agreed to take the minutes for this meeting.
- III.** The minutes of the November 12, 2002 meeting were approved.
- IV. Communications:** An invitation was received from the Mansfield Social Services Dept. to attend a Legislative Meeting on December 12 from 2:30 – 5:00 PM. Following discussion the Legislative issues to be raised were prioritized as follows:
 1. Closing of the Willimantic Social Services Office
 2. Possible elimination of the statewide Commission on Aging
 3. A. Increase Medicaid reimbursement to actual cost so that:
More dentists will participate in the community and in nursing facilities.
B. Nursing and home care programs can make salaries more competitive in order to hire and retain more qualified staff.
C. Support recruitment and training of nurses and support staff for nursing homes and home care agencies.
 4. Implement a Graduated Licensing for drivers.
- V. Optional Reports:**

Wellness Center: Jean Kenny presented her November report. A copy is attached.

Senior Center: Marilyn Gerling presented her November report. A copy is attached.
- VI. Other Social Services:** The new Social Services Director, Kevin Grunwald, began his Mansfield employment today. Marilyn Gerling reported Matt Hart introduced him at the Senior Center and he toured the facility and met staff here at that time.
- VII. Old Business:**

The issue of the Senior Center President being designated a voting member

of the Commission on Aging was raised. Nora Stevens said Suzanna Thomas had communicated to her that the original intention of the Commission was for the membership to purposely be kept general, not limited to age, affiliation, etc. Discussion followed and Phil Fichandler moved that the Commission not make this recommendation to the Town Council but when the position becomes available the Commission recommend to the Nominating Committee that the President of the Senior Center Association be recommended for that position. Phil Secker seconded and this motion passed with one abstention.

A motion was needed to include new business on the agenda. Carol Phillips moved and Phil Fichandler seconded that "New Business" be added to the agenda. This passed unanimously.

VIII New Business:

Jean Kenny reported that three grant applications had been received by Social Services:

VNA East, Thames Valley Council for Community Action, and Community Companions and Homemakers. The Dial-A-Ride and McSweeney applications are still expected.

Those planning to review these agencies were asked to have their reports ready for the January Commission meeting.

IX Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Next Meeting January 13, 2003 at 2:30 PM, Mansfield Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Gerling
Secretary Pro Tem